

Yes! 13™

Liturgies

Yes! to God
Yes! to Your Neighbor
Yes! to Yourself

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Clergy Leadership Institute

ENABLING INNOVATION AT THE *SPEED OF LIFE*

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Yes!³ Liturgies

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Throughout this resource, quotes from a variety of sources are provided in italicized text. Where the original source is known, the quote includes an attribution. Non-referenced quotes have been developed from the authors' experience and imagination.

Biblical passages and prayers have been developed and adapted from a variety of sources. Occasional words have been changed to align the meaning of the texts with the topical context of this program. We have intentionally used alternative texts, such as the New Zealand Prayerbook version of the Lord's prayer, and rephrased other prayers to create novelty, which is an essential ingredient in creativity and re-imagining processes. While the words may sometimes be discordant to you, especially compared to phrases that may be more familiar to you, we invite you to simply allow your mind to play with the words and wonder where the Spirit may lead. Within the text we have also deliberately used the term "The Source" as a name for God. We chose to use this name in contrast to other more familiar names as we wanted to highlight in consciousness the idea of the Source of our existence from which we receive life and derive our purpose.

The worship services reflect our experience of worship and prayer in the Episcopal church. Rather than simply being tied to them we encourage you to use your own forms of prayer and develop worship services based in the best of your worship traditions.

Prayer services are based on the prayerbook forms used throughout the Anglican Communion and found in prayerbooks such as The Book of Common Prayer (Episcopal) ©Copyright 1979, The Church Pension Fund.

Specific prayers such as the Lord's Prayer were taken from A New Zealand Prayerbook, ©Copyright 1989 the Church of the Province of New Zealand. Other prayers have been adapted from prayers and or phrases from this wonderful treasure trove of inspiration. To the original authors who are unknown we are truly indebted and grateful for your creative witness to the God of Creation and Redemption.

The majority of the canticles were taken or adapted from Enriching Our Worship ©Copyright 1998, The Church Pension Fund.

In general, Biblical passages were taken from The New Revised Standard Version, ©Copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

We acknowledge that we have taken liberties with these original sources. As program developers and liturgists we have sought to create contextually relevant worship services to meet the needs of the people in this program by building on the great foundations provided by these sources. If our adaptations offend, we apologize. If these services are a blessing we give the credit to the original sources and shapers of these liturgical expressions, and are grateful to all those through the centuries who have creatively grafted their experience into this wonderful collection of resources.

We are also very grateful to the many participants in our training programs and especially for their questions that have led us to new discoveries and grown our understanding of the importance a life of Yes!

Sincerely and With Gratitude,
Rob and Kim Voyle

Session 1: Who Blessed Your Existence?

Opening Prayer

Officiant For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you was not “yes and no” but in him it is always Yes! For in him every one of God’s promises is a Yes! *2 Corinthians 1:19-20*

Officiant O God, let our mouths proclaim your praise.

People **Let our hearts rejoice in your goodness.**

Together **Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor, power and might be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Canticle: A Song of Pilgrimage (said together)

Ecclesiasticus 51:13-16, 20b-22

Before I ventured forth, even while I was very young,

I sought wisdom openly in my prayer.

In the forecourts of the temple I asked for her, and I will seek her to the end.

From the first blossom to early fruit, she has been the delight of my heart.

My foot has kept firmly to the true path, diligently from my youth have I pursued her.

I inclined my ear a little and received her; I found for myself much wisdom and became adept in her.

To the one who gives me wisdom will I give glory, for I have resolved to live according to her way.

From the beginning I gained courage from her, therefore I will not be forsaken.

In my inmost being I have been stirred to seek her, therefore have I gained a good possession.

As my reward the Almighty has given me the gift of language, and with it will I offer praise to God.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

Jeremiah 1:4-9

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.” Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth.”

Silent reflection concluded with:

Officiant Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Amen. All that the Lord has said we will do.**

Canticle: A Song of Ezekiel (said together)

Ezekiel 36:24-28

I will take you from among all nations; and gather you from all lands to bring you home.

I will sprinkle clean water upon you; and purify you from false gods and uncleanness.

A new heart I will give you and a new spirit put within you.

I will take the stone heart from your chest and give you a heart of flesh.

I will help you walk in my laws and cherish my commandments and do them.

You shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Officiant Lord, hear our prayer;

People **And let our cry come to you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Together Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
 Source of all that is and that shall be,
 Father and Mother of us all,
 Loving God, in whom is heaven:
 The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
 The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
 Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
 Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
 With the bread we need for today, feed us.
 In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
 In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
 From trials too great to endure, spare us.
 From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
 For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. **Amen.**

Officiant Almighty God, pour upon us your wisdom and grace as we embark on this journey of discovery. Enkindle in our hearts the fire of your love, that warmed by your presence and inspired by your spirit we would quest for your purpose and bring you glory in the way we live our lives through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Thanksgivings and intercessions may be offered.

Officiant God of infinite blessing, when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy; open our eyes to the wonders of your creation and teach us to use all things for good, that we may be blessed and be a blessing so that all may live in your abundance; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Prayer

Canticle (said together)

Psalm 67:1-5

O God be gracious to us and bless us and make your face to shine upon us,
 That your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.
 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity
 and guide the nations upon earth.
 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
 The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

Blessing

Officiant The God of Abraham and Sarah call you to your purpose.
 The Light of Christ shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path.
 The Spirit of Love grant you courage to journey and fulfill your destiny with integrity.
 And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Life-Giving Spirit,
 be among you, and remain with you now and for ever. **Amen.**

Officiant Go in beauty to love and enjoy the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Session 2: Unconditional Love and Saying Yes! to God

Opening Prayer

Officiant Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7

Officiant O God, let our mouths proclaim your praise.

People Let our hearts rejoice in your goodness.

Together Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor, power and might be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Canticle: The Song of Our Adoption (said together)

Ephesians 1:3-10

Blessed are you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ;

You have blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms.

Even before the world was made you chose us to be yours in Christ:

That we should be holy and blameless in your sight.

In love you destined us for adoption as your children through Christ Jesus:

Such was your pleasure and your purpose,

To the praise of your glorious grace:

Which you have freely given us in your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Reading from the First Letter of John

1 John 4:16-21

So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Silent reflection concluded with:

Officiant Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Amen. All that the Lord has said we will do.

Canticle: A Song of God's Love (said together)

1 John 4:7-11

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is Love.

In this the love of God was revealed among us, that God sent his only Son into the world,

So that we might live through Jesus Christ.

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us

And sent his Son that sins might be forgiven.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we ought also to love one another.

For if we love one another, God abides in us, and God's love will be perfected in us.

Officiant Lord, hear our prayer;

People And let our cry come to you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Together Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
 Source of all that is and that shall be,
 Father and Mother of us all,
 Loving God, in whom is heaven:
 The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
 The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
 Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
 Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
 With the bread we need for today, feed us.
 In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
 In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
 From trials too great to endure, spare us.
 From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
 For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. **Amen.**

Officiant Set that loving star which never sets, the risen light of Christ, in our hearts that together we will walk in your presence with your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills, until, Following our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Thanksgivings and intercessions may be offered

Officiant Almighty God, you are the loving heart of the universe in whom we live and move and have our being. You are the source of all that was, and is and will be; you are the fount of all wisdom and knowledge. Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, minds to understand and hearts to hold your love that we may know that we are one with you and all the love in the universe. **Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Closing Prayer

Canticle: Nunc Dimittis (said together)

Luke 2:29-32

**Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised;
 For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
 A Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.
 Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity,
 One God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Officiant Almighty God the source of all love, grant you that sustaining joy which none can take from you, that comes from knowing that you have a place in God's heart, with love to share, a work to do, and a life to live. And the blessing of God Almighty, the love at our beginning and at our end, be with you and amongst you now and forever. **Amen.**

Officiant Go in beauty to love and enjoy the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Retreat Session: Day of Discovery – Finding Life's Purpose

Opening Prayer

Officiant They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat upon them, for the one who loves them will lead them and guide them beside the springs of water. *Isaiah 49:10*

Officiant O God, let our mouths proclaim your praise.

People Let our hearts rejoice in your goodness.

Together Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor, power and might be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Canticle: A Song of Our Adoption (said together)

Ephesians 1:3-10

Blessed are you, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
for you have blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

Before the world was made, you chose us to be yours in Christ,
that we should be holy and blameless before you.

You destined us for adoption as your children through Jesus Christ,
according to the good pleasure of your will,

To the praise of your glorious grace, that you have freely given us in the Beloved.

In you, we have redemption through the blood of Christ, the forgiveness of our sins,
According to the riches of your grace which you have lavished upon us.

You have made known to us, in all wisdom and insight, the mystery of your will,

According to your good pleasure which you set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time,
To gather together all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Gospel of John

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of human will, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Silent reflection concluded with:

Officiant Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Amen. All that the Lord has said we will do.

Canticle: The Third Song of Isaiah (said together)

Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

For behold, darkness covers the land; deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.

But over you the Lord will rise, and God's glory will appear upon you.

Nations will stream to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawning.

Your gates will always be open; by day or night they will never be shut.

They will call you, The City of the Lord, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
 Violence will no more be heard in your land, ruin or destruction within your borders.
 You will call your walls, Salvation, and all your portals, Praise.
 The sun will no more be your light by day; by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.
 The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.

Officiant Lord, hear our prayer;

People **And let our cry come to you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Together **Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
 Source of all that is and that shall be,
 Father and Mother of us all,
 Loving God, in whom is heaven:
 The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
 The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
 Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
 Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
 With the bread we need for today, feed us.
 In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
 In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
 From trials too great to endure, spare us.
 From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
 For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

Officiant Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives and conversations this day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Thanksgivings and intercessions may be offered.

Officiant Creator God, source of our existence, we thank you for all that is good, for our creation and our humanity, for the gift of life, for one another, for your love which is unbounded and eternal and for the responsibility you have given us of this planet earth. Now we offer you this day and ask that our eyes would continually behold the wonders of your creation and our place and purpose in your love. **Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Prayer

Officiant You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that God will give you whatever you ask in my name. *John 15:16*

Officiant O God, let our mouths proclaim your praise.

People **Let our hearts rejoice in your goodness.**

Together **Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor, power and might be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Canticle: The Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary (said together)

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord: my spirit rejoices in God my savior,

For you Lord have looked with favor on your lowly servant:

And from this day all generations will call me blessed.

You O Most Mighty have done great things for me: and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you: from generation to generation.

You have shown the strength of your arm: and scattered the proud in their conceit.

You have cast down the mighty from their thrones: and have lifted up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things: and the rich you have sent away empty.

You have come to the help of your people: for you have remembered your promise of mercy,

The promise you made to our forbears; to Abraham and Sarah and their children for ever.

A Reading From Philippians

Philippians 4:8

Finally, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Silent reflection concluded with:

Officiant Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Amen. All that the Lord has said we will do.**

Canticle: A Song of Judith (said together)

Judith 16:13-16

I will sing a new song to my God, for you are great and glorious, wonderful in strength, invincible.

Let the whole creation serve you, for you spoke and all things came into being.

You sent your breath and it formed them, no one is able to resist your voice.

Mountains and seas are stirred to their depths, rocks melt like wax at your presence.

But to those who revere you, you continue to show mercy and they shall stand in your sight for ever.

Amen.

Officiant Lord, hear our prayer;

People **And let our cry come to you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Together **Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,**

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Officiant Oh God of peace, keep us from a mindless acceptance of things as they are. Let us all know that at the heart of change and turbulence there is an inner calm that comes from faith in you, and that from this central heart of peace, there may flow a creative compassion, a thirst for justice, a relentless proclamation of your love, and a willingness to give of ourselves in the Spirit of Christ. **Amen.**

Thanksgivings and intercessions may be offered.

In a time of silence the participants may offer to God their personal purpose statements.

Officiant Gracious God, you have given us much today to think upon and ponder, grant us thankful hearts and spirits to cherish your presence in our purpose. Into your hands we commend ourselves and our purpose. Let us be continually aware of your blessing, and when we take our rest renew us for the service of your son Jesus Christ.

People **Amen. In darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy, help us O God, to trust your love, to serve your purpose, and to praise your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Officiant Go in beauty to love and enjoy the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Session 3: Saying Yes! to Your Neighbor

Opening Prayer

Officiant The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. *Luke 4:18-19*

Officiant O God, let our mouths proclaim your praise.

People **Let our hearts rejoice in your goodness.**

Together **Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor, power and might be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Canticle: The Exalted Lord (said together)

Philippians 2:6-11

**Christ Jesus was in the form of God: yet he did not cling to equality with God,
But emptied himself taking the form of a servant: and was born in our human likeness.
Being found in human form he humbled himself and was obedient unto death,
Even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God has exalted him: and bestowed on him the Name above every name,
That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow: in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord: to the glory of Almighty God. Amen**

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Matthew 25:34-40

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Silent reflection concluded with:

Officiant Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Amen. All that the Lord has said we will do.**

Canticle: What does the Lord require of thee? (said together)

Micah 6:6-8

**With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before God with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
The Lord has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you
But to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?**

Officiant Lord, hear our prayer;

People **And let our cry come to you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Together **Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
 The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
 Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
 Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
 With the bread we need for today, feed us.
 In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
 In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
 From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
 For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. **Amen.**

Officiant Eternal God, you have always taken men and women of every nation, age and color and made them saints by transforming them in your love. Grant us grace to humbly walk with Jesus, and to be as liberal with your love as he was, and is, and will be forever more. **Amen.**

Thanksgivings and intercessions may be offered

Officiant God of life we thank you for the mystery planted in us, the paradox of life from death, of selflessness from selfishness, of a desire for justice from an attitude of just us, of a heart of love from a heart of stone. Blessed is your risen Christ, the Lord of growth and discovery, of beauty and joy, of peace and justice, who makes all things new. Set within us your heart of love, that we may give of ourselves to your service, and live each day in love to one another and to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Prayer

Canticle: Prayer attributed to St. Francis (said together)

**O Lord, make us instruments of your peace! Where there is hatred, let us sow love.
 Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is discord, harmony.
 Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope.
 Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sorrow, joy.
 Oh Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
 To be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive;
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.**

Blessing

Officiant The God of Truth bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths, and superficiality so that you live from deep within your heart. **Amen.**

The God of Understanding make you tender in the face of pain and rejection so that others can know the comfort of your acceptance. **Amen.**

The God of Justice make you fierce in the face of oppression and exploitation so that others can live with dignity in the midst of your respect. **Amen.**

The God of all Wisdom bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can lead others to do what many claim cannot be done.

People **Amen.**

Officiant Go in beauty to love and enjoy the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Session 4: Saying Yes! to Yourself

Opening Prayer

Officiant For anyone who is in Christ, they are a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It is God who through Christ has won us back and given us a share in this work of reconciliation. *2 Corinthians 5:17-18*

Officiant O God, let our mouths proclaim your praise.

People **Let our hearts rejoice in your goodness.**

Together **Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor, power and might be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Canticle: Venite (said together)

Psalms 95:1-7

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

In your hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are yours also.

The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For you are our God, and we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand.

Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!

A Reading From Ephesians

Ephesians 3:16-19

According to the riches of God's glory, may you be strengthened with might through the Holy Spirit in your inner being, and may Christ dwell in your hearts through faith; that you being rooted and grounded in love, may have power to comprehend with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Silent reflection concluded with:

Officiant Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Amen. All that the Lord has said we will do.**

Canticle: Rich In Mercy (said together)

Ephesians 2:4-7; 3:20, 21

You O God are rich in mercy: out of the great love with which you loved us.

Even when we were dead through our sins: you made us alive together with Christ.

You raised us up in union with him:

And made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

So that you might show the immeasurable riches of your grace:

In kindness towards us in Christ Jesus.

By your Spirit at work within us; you do far more abundantly than all we ask or think.

To you be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus: through all generations for ever and ever. Amen.

Officiant Lord, hear our prayer;

People **And let our cry come to you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Together **Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
 The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
 Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
 Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
 With the bread we need for today, feed us.
 In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
 In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
 From trials too great to endure, spare us.
 From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
 For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. **Amen.**

Officiant Eternal God, light of the minds that know you, joy of the hearts that love you, strength of the wills that serve you; grant us so to know you that we may truly love you, and so to love you that we may love ourselves as you love us. **Amen.**

Thanksgivings and intercessions may be offered

Officiant God of grace, you have endowed us with talents and capabilities beyond the imagination of our finite minds. Shed upon us the light of your infinite understanding that we can behold ourselves as you see us, so that we would manifest your hopes and promises in the world, and those who follow after us would be grateful for what we have done through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Prayer

Canticle: Song of Love (said together)

1 Corinthians 13

Love is patient, love is kind and envies no one;
 Love is not boastful, never conceited, never rude nor selfish;
 Love is not quick to take offense. Love keeps no score of wrongs;
 Love delights in the truth; there is no limit to its faith, its hope and its endurance.
 Love never gives up. Love never comes to an end.
 There are three things that last for ever:
 Faith, hope, and love, but the greatest of these is love.

Blessing

Officiant God the Creator grant you grace to see yourself as God made you and never anything less.
 God of Love grant you grace to value yourself as God values you,
 and never to sell yourself short.
 God of Life grant you grace to dream God's purpose for you and to never settle for mediocrity.
 And the Blessing of God Almighty Creator, Lover, and Giver of Life be with you now and forever.

People **Amen.**

Officiant Go in beauty to love and enjoy the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Session 5: Next Steps to a Life of Yes!

Opening Prayer

Officiant One thing I have asked of you O Lord, which I long for, that I may dwell in your house all the days of my life, to gaze on your beauty O Lord and to seek you in your temple. *Psalm 27:4-5*

Officiant O God, let our mouths proclaim your praise.

People **Let our hearts rejoice in your goodness.**

Together **Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor, power and might be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Officiant The first commandment is this, "Hear, O People of God: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these. *Mark 12:29-31*

People **O God, write what you command on our hearts, that we may abide in your heart all the days of our lives.**

Canticle: The Song of Zechariah (said together)

Luke 1:68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; you have come to your people and set them free.

You have raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of your servant David.

**Through your holy prophets you promised of old, that you would save us from our enemies,
From the hands of all who hate us.**

You promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember your holy covenant.

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship you without fear, holy and righteous in your sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

For you will go before the Lord to prepare God's way,

To give your people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,

And to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A Reading From the First Letter of Peter

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light . Once you were no people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy.

Silent reflection concluded with:

Officiant Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Amen. All that the Lord has said we will do.**

Canticle: You are Worthy (said together)

Book of Revelation

You are worthy, our Lord and God: to receive glory and honor and power.

For you have created all things and by your will they were created and have their being.

You are worthy O Christ, for you were slain: and by your blood have ransomed us for God.

Ransomed us from every tribe and people and nation:

And made us a royal house of priests to our God.

To the one who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb:
 be blessing and honor, glory and might for ever and ever. Amen.

Officiant Lord, hear our prayer;

People **And let our cry come to you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Together **Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
 Source of all that is and that shall be,
 Father and Mother of us all,
 Loving God, in whom is heaven:
 The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
 The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
 Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
 Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
 With the bread we need for today, feed us.
 In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
 In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
 From trials too great to endure, spare us.
 From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
 For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

Officiant Almighty God, you have made us your chosen people, not your protected people. Help us not to be afraid because you are not afraid. You have given us a lodging in this world but not an abiding city. Help us in this present moment, as a pilgrim people, to endure hardship and delight in goodness, knowing that following our journey your Christ has prepared a place for us in your eternal heart. **Amen.**

Thanksgivings and intercessions may be offered

Officiant Almighty God, the source of our being, you have blessed us beyond our wildest dreams. You have set before us promises and challenges that expand our understanding. Help us to take risks for your glory and to have the courage to persevere, that the challenges be surmounted and your promises fulfilled in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Concluding Worship and Blessing

Canticle: O Gracious Light (said together)

O gracious Light, Pure brightness of the ever living God in Heaven,

O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our hearts await the new morn, we sing your praises,

O blessed God: sun of our night, light of our day.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,

O son of God, O God of life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.

A Reading from John's Gospel

John 15:9-17

As God has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Silent reflection concluded with:

Officiant Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Amen. All that the Lord has said we will do.**

At the end of each element of the blessing the people respond with Yes!

Officiant God the Creator bless you with a vision so that you can look forward to the day when you can look back and behold with wonder the great things you and God have done together. **Yes!**

Officiant God the Lover bless you with love to fan the fire of your compassion so that your neighbors will be glad of your presence. **Yes!**

Officiant God the Giver of Life bless you with the living waters of companionship, authenticity, competence, and courage to fulfill your purpose so that following your days on earth you will hear the heavens proclaim: "Well Done!" **Yes!**

Officiant And the Eternal God, whose Yes! echoes through the universe, bless you, and all those to whom you say Yes! now and forever. **Yes!**

Officiant Go in love to say Yes! Yes! to God, Yes! to your neighbor, and Yes! to yourself.

People **Yes! all that the Lord has said we will do.**

